

RECAP OF DAY TWO

JUNE 6 2024



OVERVIEW

The Food and Feed Safety Workshop progressed into day 2 with a broader perspective on proffering solutions to identified problems with actionable steps. Inadequate policies, laws and institutional arrangements for food safety and quality characterized the African region. Food policies, legislation, and regulations may not be updated, some are not science-based, and others are fragmented in various government MDAs with different and overlapping codes and mandates which are not in tandem with Codex and global best practices. In many cases, the laws usually do not cover all areas of the food chain.

Several countries within the African Union are currently in the process of modernizing their food safety control system, including Nigeria.

The current WHO global strategy for food safety strongly encourages the harmonization of Food Safety policies, legislations, and regulations at national levels to ensure the proper “strengthening (of) national food control systems.”



A close-up photograph of a silver and gold fountain pen lying diagonally across the pages of a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has light blue horizontal lines and a silver spiral binding on the left. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

CONTEXT

The Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health and Welfare, Africa Food and Safety Initiative and the Food and Agriculture Export Alliance, with support from the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (The Project Team) and the Nigeria Economic Summit Group conducted a workshop in 2022 to identify priority actions for the modernization of the Food safety systems in Nigeria.

The creation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) convening subject matter experts from government, industry, academia and consumer representatives was proposed to gather information and propose solutions to the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) and (FMHSW) in its ongoing effort.

Hence, the event marks the launch of four Technical Working Groups (TWGs) approved by the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare.

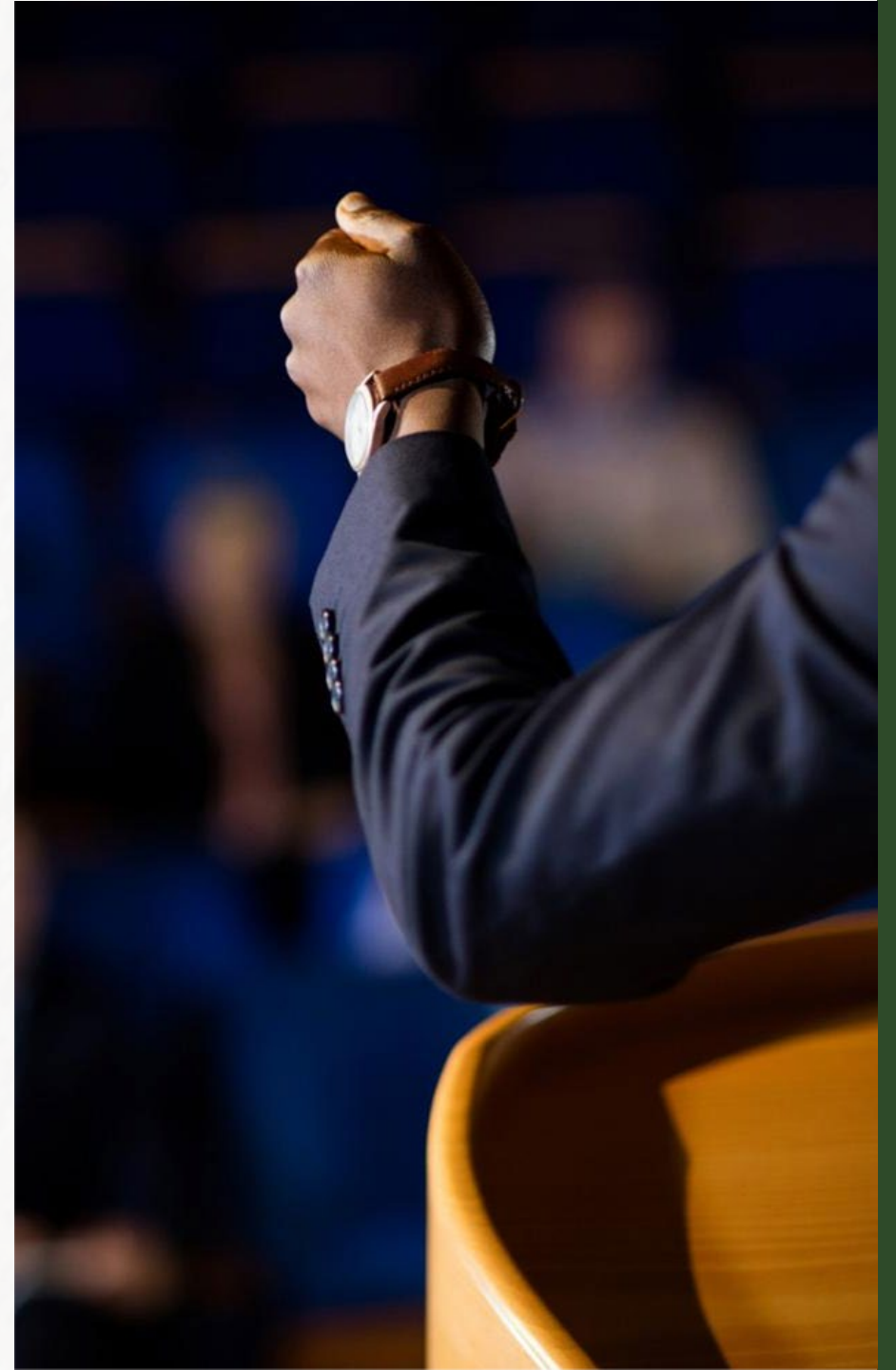
WELCOME ADDRESS

Kelly Scavella from the USDA welcomed participants and expressed her pleasure at the workshop; she shared that the USDA values its relationship with ECOWAS and other countries in West Africa. According to her, four technical groups (Traceability; Risk-based Regulation; Food, Feed and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary inspection; and Continuous Education and Research) will be launched; these technical working groups have been approved by the Honorable Minister of Health and Social Welfare; Professor Muhammad Ali Pate.

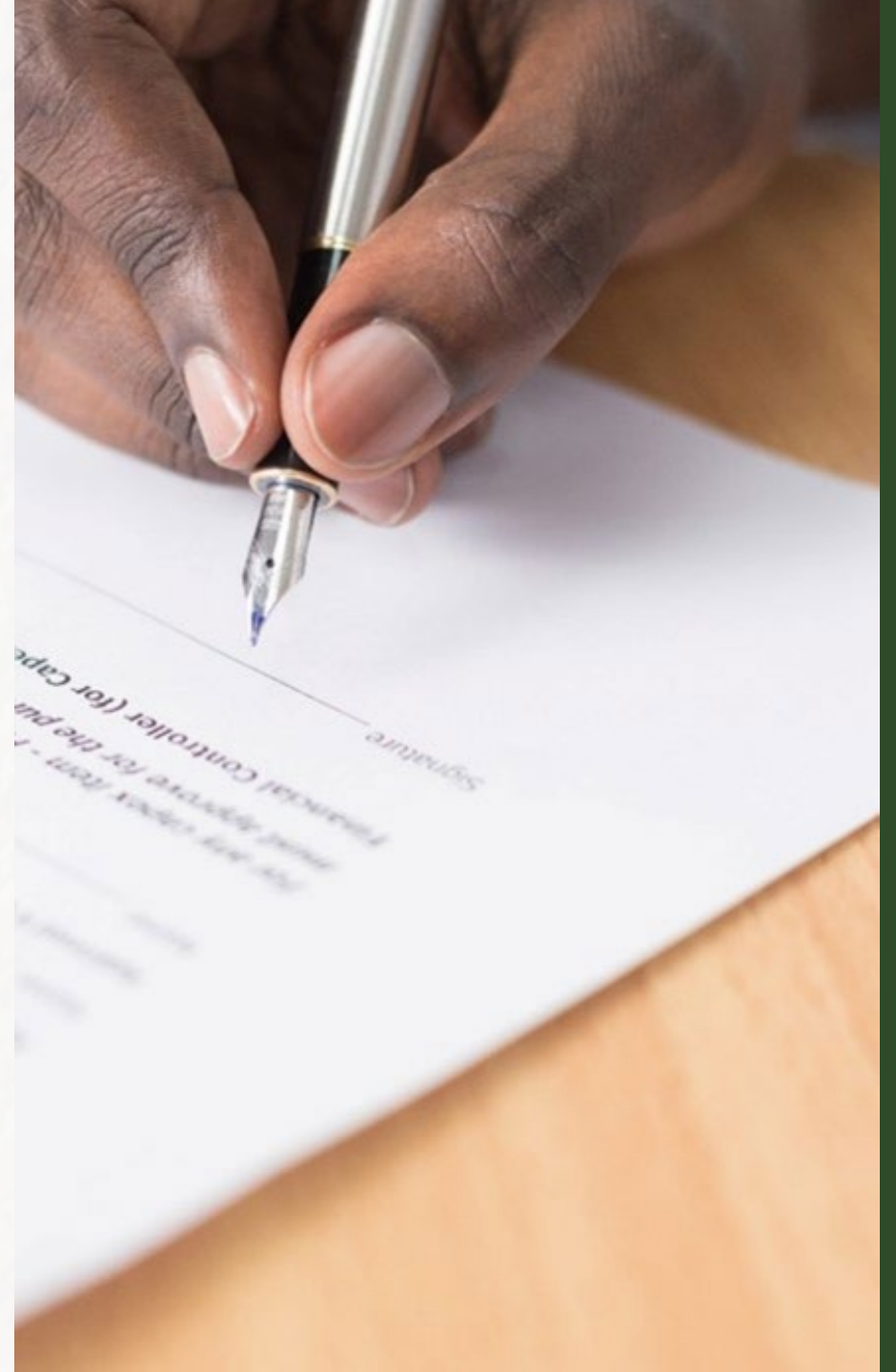
Mawuli Asigbe of the Africa Food Safety Initiative spoke about adopting international best practices in the regulatory framework. This includes activities relative to the Phytosanitary inspection guide, a soon-to-be-launched project on a bilateral food safety program in Nigeria and Senegal to address prioritised food safety issues.

Mr. Fred Chiazor, the Co-Chair of the Food Safety Management Committee, Co-Chair of the Institute for Food and Beverage Sector in Nigeria, and Chair of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, promised to report on the outcome of the deliberations to his Association's members.

Mr. Atanda John, the National Coordinator of the Food Safety and Quality Programme of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, who also doubles as the Chair of the Food Safety Management Committee, representing the coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, gave a brief background on the history of the project, encouraging participants to put in their best in ensuring the objectives of the project is achieved, through the TWGs, which are sub-groups of the National Food Safety Management Committee.



REPORT ON BREAKOUT SESSIONS



BREAKOUT SESSION



**Risk Based
Regulation**

01



**Continuous
Education and
Research**

02



Traceability

03



**Food, Feed and
Sanitary and
Phyto-Sanitary
Inspection**

04

TWG –Risk Based Regulation

Mission Statement - To promote and provide evidence based technical guidance on risk assessment for food and feed safety practices by informing risk based regulation development and strategic implementation in Nigeria.

Missing Expertise and Organizations

- Advanced knowledge of data needs in Ministries (for rules)
- At least one representative of a government research funding organisation
- Specialist in communications and outreach programs

National Broadcasting Commission; National Bureau of Statistics; Tetfund; Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria; National Agricultural Quarantine Services; Standards Organisation of Nigeria; Nigeria Export Promotion Council; Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

Problem Focus

- Lack of Shared Vision: Discussed the importance of establishing a unified vision through mission statements to foster teamwork and alignment.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Challenges in engaging diverse stakeholders and fostering buy-in for TWG initiatives.
- Communication Strategies: Emphasized the need for clear and effective communication strategies to ensure all team members are informed and engaged

Opportunities

- Conduct a study on the sources of food and feed contamination
- Promote training on data gathering and collection on food and feed safety
- Enhance data analysis to support and advance food and feed safety management

TWG - Continuous Learning and Education

Mission Statement - Advancing knowledge and promoting good practices in food and feed safety through continuous education and innovative research.

Missing Expertise:

- There was no identifiable missing expertise

Problem Focus

- Lack of Shared Vision
- Lack of Inclusive stakeholders Engagement
- Lack of Communication Strategy

Opportunities

- Mission Statement Development: Crafted mission statements that articulate TWG goals and values, promoting shared understanding and commitment.
- Stakeholder Involvement: Proposed strategies to enhance stakeholder engagement and communication to build support for TWG initiatives.
- Continuous Improvement: Committed to continuous evaluation and adaptation of TWG

TWG – Traceability

Mission Statement - Connecting customers to the source, ensuring global trust and integrity in every bite.

Identified Expertise

- IT Expert: to deploy the expertise needed for products traceability through software.
- Scientist: To enable for scientific investigations and address the biggest source of contamination
- Food Processors: NAFDAC, Ministry of Agric.
- Regulators; To help with regulations and policies.
- Lab tech data specialist: For laboratory testing to enable traceability back to source of production, storage, distribution, consumers, purchase, consumption, diseases and contamination.
- Microbiologist
- Statistician & Economist

Identified Ministries & Organizations

- Ministries at the Federal Level
- Industry Groups
- Private Sector
- Extension Workers
- Farmers at the grassroots levels

Opportunities

- a. Conduct a study on food and feed contamination sources.
- b. Promote training on data gathering and collection on food and feed safety.
- c. Enhance data analysis to support and advance food and feed safety management.

TWG –Food, Feed and Sanitary Phyto -Sanitary Inspection

Mission Statement - To promote and provide evidence based technical guidance on risk assessment for food and feed safety practices by informing risk based regulation development and strategic implementation in Nigeria.

Missing Expertise

- State representation
- Academic representation
- Agricultural economist
- Environmentalist experienced in SPS
- The issue of the exclusion of feed was raised by a group member, who argued that the exclusion of feed may result in excluding the need for animal feed safety.

Problem Focus

- Overlap of mandate by different agencies of government.
- Inadequate enforcement of regulation
- Low compliance level related to lack of awareness of SPS regulation

Opportunities

- Improve regular inspection
- Awareness creation
- Improve coordination and cooperation between agencies.
- Stakeholder buy-in and engagement
- Encourage the food and feed industry to self-regulate,
- Government investment in human capital